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BRET HARTE.

It was nearly a quarter of a century ago that Bret Harte, then close upon forty years of age, received an appointment in the consular service of the United States, and went abroad to live. He probably had little thought at the time that his self-expatriation would be prolonged for twenty-four years, and that he would die in a foreign country. His first public service was at Crefeld, but after two years he was

transferred to the important consulate at Glasgow, where he remained until 1885, when the spoilsmen demanded his place, and he became a victim of our grotesque national system of consular appointments. He found life in Great Britain so comfortable that he decided to remain. His reputation as a man of letters was so great that his pen assured him an income for as long as he should be able to use it; he was, moreover, one of the few American writers of his time who were as popular in England as at home. He even had a following upon the Continent, especially in Germany, and his stories had been translated into many languages. So he removed from Glasgow to London, made himself a home in the capital city of our race, and enjoyed life for something over twenty years longer. When he died, on the fifth of this month, he was in his sixty-third year.

Bret Harte's reputation as a writer was fully made when he went abroad in the seventies, and it was curiously like the more recent reputation of Mr. Rudyard Kipling. In other words, it was based upon a mastery of the short story, upon a gift of vivid realism in the portrayal of striking types of character found far from the conventional environment of old societies, and upon a knack of easy rhyming of a sort now humorous, now pathetic, which occasionally stirred the deeper emotions. The things which he could do he had already done, and done inimitably, when he became a voluntary exile. Since then, he has perhaps doubled the volume of his work, but he has added to it no new note, and has remained content to ring the changes upon the old themes and situations.

It is perhaps the best of all legitimate tributes to his great talent, amounting almost to genius, to say that his later stories retain much of the freshness of the earlier ones. The vein of Californian romance which he worked so successfully in the seventies, continued in the nineties and beyond to yield ore of rich quality. He repeats himself many times, to be sure, but his repetitions are something more than replicas of achieved masterpieces; they are rather analogous to the variations upon a single theme to which the great composers have devoted their

best abilities. In the cases of the musician and the story-writer alike, the power to charm continuously is the real test, and we do not know why the variations of the artist in words should be treated with a scorn that we would not think of bestowing upon the variations of the artist in tones.

Francis Bret Harte was born in Albany in 1839. His father died when the boy was fifteen years old, and the family then migrated to California. The boy's early experience included gold-digging, type-setting, and school-teaching. When a compositor at Eureka he tried his hand at writing, and the ability thus displayed earned him an editorial position on his newspaper. But his zeal outran his discretion, and the office was nearly wrecked in consequence of the young editor's denunciation of an outrageous Indian massacre in which the leading citizens of the town had taken part. He then started "The Californian" on his own account, but the paper had only a brief existence, and is chiefly remembered because the "Condensed Novels" first appeared in its columns. In 1868 "The Overland Monthly" was established, and Harte was appointed its editor. His opportunity was now at hand, and he knew how to make use of it. The story of his sudden leap into national fame with "The Luck of Roaring Camp" is familiar, and need not be here repeated. The reception given it in California was decidedly unfavorable, and many were the denunciations of the author that appeared in the press. But the East was yet to be heard from; and when its voice was heard, the local verdict was absolutely reversed, for the story was received "with an enthusiasm that half frightened the author," and even "The Atlantic Monthly" wrote soliciting a contribution of similar sort.

Two or three years later, Bret Harte left California for the East, and established himself as a journalist and man of letters in connection with the "Atlantic" and the New York "Evening Post." This is the story of his life up to the time of his consular appointment, and is all that need be here recounted. It was a fortunate happening for American literature that he should have passed the receptive years of his life upon the Pacific Coast. Our national history has offered few such opportunities for a genial observer, and Bret Harte was the man for the occasion. The exodus of 1849 was one of the most picturesque things in our annals, and resulted in a social con-

dition that remains absolutely unique. The author's own words must here be quoted to help our understanding of the phase of American civilization that he has placed permanently upon record.

"He must beg the reader to bear in mind that this emigration was either across a continent almost unexplored, or by the way of a long and dangerous voyage around Cape Horn, and that the promised land itself presented the singular spectacle of a patriarchal Latin race who had been left to themselves, forgotten by the world, for nearly three hundred years. The faith, courage, vigor, youth, and capacity for adventure necessary to this emigration produced a body of men as strongly distinctive as the companions of Jason. Unlike most pioneers, the majority were men of profession and education; all were young, and all had staked their future in the enterprise. Critics who have taken large and exhaustive views of mankind and society from club windows in Pall Mall or the Fifth Avenue can only accept for granted the turbulent Chivalry that thronged the streets of San Francisco in the gala days of her youth, and must read the blazon of their deeds like the doubtful quarterings of the shield of Amadis de Gaul."

The total literary output of this brilliant and accomplished writer includes, besides the substantial collection of his poems, upwards of forty volumes of fiction. Perhaps one-fourth of these volumes are single novels; the others are collections of short stories. Bret Harte was less successful when working upon a large scale than when he confined himself to a few pages. The constructive art, which was almost faultless in his briefer efforts, seemed to fail him when he attempted the form of lengthy narrative, and the most extensive of all his fictions, the story of "Gabriel Conroy," is among the weakest. Of his longer stories, "The Crusade of the Excelsior" is probably the best. It is as the master of the short story that he will mainly live in the history of our literature, and he is bound to occupy a high position. His stories are very uneven in their excellence, as could hardly fail to be the case when it is considered that they must number in the neighborhood of two hundred; but the best of them, the best fifty of them, let us say, constitute a body of work that must be ranked above nearly everything else of its class in our literature, excepting only as *hors concours* the work of Poe and Hawthorne. And we are inclined to think that, taking the word novelist in its broadest sense, and reviewing our American novelists of the past third of a century, there is not one among them all who has made a more valuable and lasting contribution to our literature than that which we owe to Bret Harte.

PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

The shocking tragedy which ended the life of Paul Leicester Ford on the eighth of this month dealt a serious blow to both American literature and American historical scholarship. Born in 1865, he had lived among books all his life, and had done an amount of literary work that was prodigious for one so young. On the historical side, his work comprises editions of the works of Thomas Jefferson and John Dickinson, a valuable critical work upon "The New England Primer," biographies of Washington and Franklin, and many lesser labors in the field of our Colonial and Revolutionary history. To the larger public, he is best known as the author of "The Honorable Peter Stirling" and "Janice Meredith," besides two or three novels of lighter character. The first of these novels, which is one of the strongest works of recent American fiction, had a curious history. It came unheralded, and attracted little attention. But as time went on, its readers told their friends about it, and the demand steadily increased until it became one of the best-selling books upon the market, and continued to be largely purchased for several years. In other words, it showed that a good book may achieve popular success in strictly legitimate ways, and its history stands in striking contrast to the history of the average popular novel of the day. The art of the advertiser brought immediate success to "Janice Meredith," which was rather a pity, because a prejudice was thus created against the book in the minds of discriminating observers, and its popularity was made to appear more artificial than deserved. As a matter of fact, it was good enough to win its way without being "boomed" or "boosted," and stands out among the best recent romances of its class. It has the uncommon merit of being based upon a genuinely scholarly knowledge of its period, without suffering from the obtrusion of learning, or having its romantic and sentimental interest in any way impaired.

THE DETACHED METHOD IN LITERATURE.

Perhaps the great French critics are the completest modern examples of personal detachment from literary work; but English and American students of life have conspicuously tried to escape their native bias. To be able to externalize one's environment, to get an outside view of one's dogmas, is deemed so necessary that the first step upon discovering an artistic faculty is to move to a metropolis and view past experiences and present emotions from that vantage-ground.

Only recently has this been done with conscious eye upon the perspective. The blind impulse to get into a larger stream of life used to be the motive; or the need of a recognition not to be found in provincial society, — as when Dr. Samuel

Johnson made his way to London. The great Doctor would, indeed, have resented any intimation that he was trying to get away from the moral and intellectual atmosphere in which he was reared. His opinion upon "apostasy," as he would have termed it, from one's education, was very decided. As the Seward letters report, he professed that "if he had been educated in the Roman Catholic faith, he would have questioned his right to quit the religion of his fathers." Stubbornly as he was bent upon adhering to the tenets he was born to, Dr. Johnson must have suffered intensification or enlargement of ideas by his migration from Lichfield; and upon the impressionable and vivid mind of Shakespeare the London journey doubtless wrought more deeply still. It brought to the dramatist that quickening of observation and memory which is so much more to the dramatic than to the philosophic observer of life. The details of his Stratford impressions must have started out in his mind, sensitized by exile, fresh and full of color as they rarely appear to the familiar eye. Follies, customs, speech, naked human nature, unreflectingly absorbed long before, came out with the enchanting picturesqueness distance lends. "Justice Shallow" moved across his fellow-townsmen's field of vision, in all the pomp and circumstance of his official position, and without the over-emphasis which irritated daily companionship would have given. All the tenderness of years of separation softened the medium through which the observer in city pent surveyed the fair rural Warwick of his boyhood.

Jane Austen is the only notable instance I can now recall of a dramatic portrayer of contemporary English manners who gives the effect of perspective in her picture, subdues the whole to artistic proportions, without effecting this objective treatment by bodily removal from the scenes she depicts. The quiet humdrum society in which she lived was irradiated for her by the lambent light of an inextinguishable humor. The fine delicate touch is that of serene detachment, not too complete and removed for understanding.

For satirists, such unexaggerated views are not essential. One can attack abuses from which one suffers acute and present misery, the more fitly and definitely for the pain. The caricature derives its ingenious power to torment from the isolation of certain qualities, the bias of the treatment. But the gentle, mellow outline of nature, the nothing too much, the modelling of a figure without the distortion of dislike or the harshness of incomplete comprehension, is not to be done in the heat of controversy. The exquisite grace of a day that is dead may be deplored, but it is the better artistically since it cannot come back in its crude emphatic salience.

Situations may press too close for the play of wit or fancy, but individuality presses closer still, and getting away from that is a far more subtle matter. A mind uncolored by habit, preposses-

sion, or feeling, would be a difficult achievement. Burns's "see ourself as ithers see us" seems to offer a rough-and-ready substitute for the absolute insight. There is the danger, however, of only exchanging one narrow circle for another. Some "ithers" bring to bear upon one's shrinking idiosyncrasies the unsympathetic glare of opposite tastes and virtue. What benefit accrues to a Poe from seeing himself as a Griswold sees him? Would Hawthorne have gained by accepting the village valuation of himself—that village from whose opinions he had to shut himself off, to gain self-confidence enough to carry on his work?

Seeing life steadily and seeing it whole comes not from reading it through other people's eyes. We all know what befell "tender personed Lamia" in Keats's poem, when the cold skeptical eye of reason penetrated her warm love-trance. One's neighbors usually bring, beside this perceptive skepticism, an active disapproval and non-comprehension of one's aim. "Know thyself" was the Delphic oracle,—but no method was suggested. The true Pythic calm would surely not be reached by adopting the strabismus of others in addition to one's own.

Nobody would have been worse confounded than Burns if the giftie had granted his petition, and the sensitive perception of others' disapproval had suddenly been thrust upon him. The virility that bubbled up so easily in his song would have been ill exchanged for the tact that holds its finger upon the popular pulse. Well for us that Robert Burns's nature had its roots too far back in the ploughing, love-making, peasant days of Ayr, to be transplanted into the conventional and artificial methods of the letters of his day. If, as Sudermann maintains in his novel "Es War," repentance is an emasculating exercise, destructive of the peace it seeks, surely the effort to view ourselves as others do,—and that is generally satirically, sometimes despondently,—cannot produce peace of mind. The dramatist may find it profitable; but the lyrical poet, or the man of action, leans for strength upon his subjective energy, and that is as liable to collapse from the intrusion of alien forces as was Lamia's palpitating loveliness. Fortunately, the subjective type is usually impervious to the opinions of others. If Napoleon had been as acutely sensitive to public approval as Josephine was, he would have made but a poor figure in the world. Detachment, then, however desirable for critics and dramatists, seems to be in its infancy as a lay endowment, because of its difficulty of attainment. Whims and prejudices and personal bias serve their end in urging us toward definite goals, and give color to the material upon which the student of life works. Even if this were not so, these distinctive traits are not to be escaped by every mind,—“nearer are they than breathing, closer than hands and feet.”

MARY B. SWINNEY.

The New Books.

A WORTHY DISCIPLE OF ÆSCULAPIUS.*

Earnest, purposeful, strenuously industrious—such was the life of the late Sir James Paget, and we close the book that pictures so faithfully his long and useful career, with a feeling of gladness that such a man has lived.

Ever since the appearance of the "Religio Medici" a peculiar interest has attached to the self-revelations of a physician. Perhaps it is the old conflict between religion and science that is at the bottom of this interest. "Three physicians, two atheists," was a saying common in Browne's day, and is still not without a measure of truth. But in Paget the highest scientific attainments were united with the loftiest spiritual faith and the most constant devotion to the claims of religion. That in him physic did not crowd out metaphysic may be seen in a brief passage from one of his routine lectures on the functions of the brain.

"Other portions of the human mind are the reason, and the conscience . . . by which there is established between man and the brutes a great difference, not in degree alone, but in kind. The spirit differs from all the faculties in its independence of our organization: for it is exercised best in complete abstraction from all that is sensible; it is wholly independent of the organization of the brain; wholly independent also of the education of the understanding."

Even an outline of Paget's life of ceaseless activity and well-earned honors would more than fill our available space. He was born at Yarmouth in 1814, being one of seventeen children, nine of whom reached maturity, and he had to contend with a lack of means that finally amounted to poverty; but the young man welcomed each obstacle as an incentive to renewed effort and an earnest of ultimate success. His fine scorn, in later life, of the eight-hour movement is reminiscent of his own fourteen and sixteen hours of daily toil. With two of his brothers, the young practitioner seeking a practice assumed the debts of his bankrupt father, and was not content until, at the end of twenty years, he had hunted up and paid in full, principal and interest, the last of the claims against the elder Paget. Cherishing a family pride like that of Thomas Martineau's children, he could not bear to leave the reproach

* MEMOIRS AND LETTERS OF SIR JAMES PAGET. Edited by Stephen Paget, one of his Sons. Illustrated. New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.

SELECTED ESSAYS AND ADDRESSES BY SIR JAMES PAGET. Edited by Stephen Paget, F.R.S.C. New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.

of insolvency against his honored father's name.

Some of the achievements of James Paget's student days at St. Bartholomew's Hospital are notable. In four or five days he read up medical jurisprudence, and, at the competitive examination, bore off the highest honors in this as well as in his other studies. He enjoyed almost a monopoly in his ability to read German with ease, and found himself in the curious position of tutor to his instructors when medical intelligence from Germany was called for. Other languages he quickly acquired for purposes of his profession. A noteworthy performance of his still earlier years illustrates his bent for natural science. While yet under twenty, he prepared an exhaustive flora—1185 plants—of his native Yarmouth, publishing it with an elder brother's equally careful study of the fauna, and accompanying it with observations on the distribution and modification of species that read like prolegomena to the "Origin of Species," which was still a quarter of a century in the future. A valuable contribution to medical science was his discovery, by the aid of a borrowed microscope, of the *trichina spiralis*, which Professor Virchow has since made the subject of more extended study. He found time and means to vary the monotony of his 'prentice days by a three-months visit to Paris hospitals and lecture-rooms. Writing home, he speaks with extreme disgust of the ruffianly appearance of the unwashed and unshaven medical students, with their ragged coats and wooden shoes. He regrets to see even some of his own countrymen lapsing into a like uncouthness; "however," he adds, "I hope a great deal of the worst is to be set down to the Americans, of whom a great many are, I know, studying here." We hope he was mistaken. Surely Dr. Holmes, who studied in Paris a few years earlier, gives no such impression in his account of Louis's "faithful band of almost worshipping students," and in his picture of the knot of Bostonians and Philadelphians that used to breakfast at the Café Procope, where Jouffroy and other famous or soon-to-be-famous men also took their morning coffee. Another fling at Americans—and this time at American women—is found in a letter to Sir Joseph Hooker on the proposed admission of women-doctors to the International Medical Congress held in London in 1881. "I am influenced towards a negative posture in this case," he says, "by what I have heard of some of the American and Zurich women-

doctors, whom it would be difficult to exclude, though few decent Englishmen would like to be associated with them." Such disparaging remarks from one so kindly and charitable and so careful in weighing his words, are the more noteworthy as the utterances of a man who was loaded with honors by American scientific societies and who came to have a wide circle of warm friends in this country.

Apropos of his friendships, a few of the good things in which the book abounds must find a place here. At the dinner following Paget's delivery of the Hunterian oration before the College of Surgeons in 1877, Mr. Gladstone, a close friend of his, proposed the orator's health in a little speech in which he divided mankind into two classes,—the happy minority who had heard the address, and the to-be-pitied majority who by their fault or misfortune had not. "There is only one way," said Paget in responding to the toast, "in which it may be possible to surpass Mr. Gladstone as an orator, and that way I will proceed to put in practice. You all know that though speech may be silvern, silence is golden. You shall have the gold." Not a few eminent authors and scientists were Sir James's friends and admirers. We see him sitting with Romanes on one side and Browning on the other, laughing with hearty zest at the latter's story of his faithless Italian maid-servant who pilfered his tea and then, conscience-stricken, stole his candles to burn before a little shrine in expiation of the theft. His admiration for George Eliot and his enjoyment of her novels is in somewhat significant contrast with his difficulty in getting through "Marcella" one stormy day in the country. With Lowell he was on the friendliest of terms. "They were made for each other," says Paget's son. In their hearty liking for the English climate the two were certainly at one. As after-dinner speakers they enjoyed a nearly equal repute. The late Mr. Justice Denman said, "I once heard, at a dinner of the Royal Society, the late Lord Coleridge, Mr. Lowell, then American Ambassador, Sir James Paget, and Mr. Huxley, all speak on the same evening; and the general opinion put Lowell first and Paget next." A short letter from Lowell to Paget, not included in Mr. Norton's collection, is so characteristic in its happy phrasing, and so illustrative of the esteem entertained for Sir James by all who knew him, as to warrant insertion here.

"If anything could add to the pleasure of dining with you, it would be that of meeting Lord Acton. He

is one of the few men I have ever met, the inside of whose head more than keeps the promise of the out — and in his case that is saying a great deal. I well remember in what terms he spoke of you; and shall not say whether I agreed with him or not, because my opinion could add no weight to his. You see I am wandering from the point (like every after-dinner speaker but you) — but it is only because I would fain put off saying that I am unfortunate enough to be engaged for Thursday. I can only say I wish I weren't!"

Our editor has some pleasant things to record of Lowell, and collects a number of his wise and witty sayings that have never before been in print.

A baronetcy was conferred upon Paget in 1871, when he had been already thirteen years, in his professional capacity, a member of the queen's household. He died in 1899. His fame as a physician rests chiefly on his work in surgical pathology, wherein he serves as one of the links connecting the old Hunterian surgery with that of the last quarter-century. His son Stephen has admirably edited and supplemented his autobiography and letters, adding Millais' portrait of Sir James and other portraits and illustrations.

Scant space remains in which to notice the "Essays and Addresses." Though almost wholly on medical subjects, many of them hold the lay reader a willing captive by their clear and engaging style. Such are, for example, the chapters on "Stammering with Other Organs than Those of Speech," "What Becomes of Medical Students," "Theology and Science," "Nervous Mimicry," and "Errors in the Chronometry of Life."

PERCY F. BICKNELL.

LINCOLN'S PLAN OF RECONSTRUCTION.*

A whole generation of men has passed from the stage of human affairs since the legal adjustment of conflicting purposes for the reconstruction of State governments in the rebellious South; yet for thirty years such has been the conflict of opinion and the resulting current of events that one may say to-day with a large measure of truth that the work of Reconstruction is still incomplete.

Three days before his death Mr. Lincoln said:

"I have been shown a letter . . . in which the writer expresses regret that my mind has not seemed to be definitely fixed on the question whether the seceded

States, so called, are in the Union or out of it. . . . As appears to me, that question has not been, nor yet is, a practically material one, and that any discussion of it while it thus remains practically immaterial could have no effect other than the mischievous one of dividing our friends. As yet, whatever it may hereafter become, that question is bad as the basis of a controversy, and good for nothing at all — a mere pernicious abstraction. We all agree that the seceded States, so called, are out of their proper practical relation with the Union, and that the sole object of the Government, civil and military, in regard to those States, is to again get them into that proper practical relation. I believe that it is not only possible, but, in fact, easier, to do this without deciding or even considering whether these States have ever been out of the Union than with it. Finding themselves safely at home, it would be utterly immaterial whether they had ever been abroad. Let us join in doing the acts necessary to restoring the proper practical relations between these States and the Union, and each forever after innocently indulge his own opinion whether in doing the acts he brought the States from without into the Union, or only gave them proper assistance, they never having been out of it."

Here, in a few sentences, is Mr. Lincoln's plan for Reconstruction; and it may be called the paternal plan. Not explicitly, but tacitly and practically, it is based upon the theory for which the war had been undertaken by the North — that the Union is perpetual, and that a State may not secede. At the same time, it met the protest of such practical minds as that of Thaddeus Stevens — that a State can secede, and that in fact eleven did so act — by the concession that "the seceded States, so called, are out of their proper and practical relation with the Union." The eminently practical mind of the great President recognized what so many of his contemporaries failed to grasp: that political theories and the actual events of life do not always coincide. Thomas Williams, of Pennsylvania, well expressed the truth in his remarks in the House, April 29, 1864, when he said that in the minds of the framers of the Constitution the theory of an indissoluble Union referred to the *right*, to its organic law; but that the Union could be ruptured by violence. Mr. Stevens himself, four days later, put it concisely when he said: "What are we making war upon them for? For seceding; for going out of the Union against law. The law forbids a man to rob or murder, and yet robbing and murder exist *de facto*, but not *de jure*."

The problem of Reconstruction was therefore not an easy one; it was exceedingly difficult to make a harmony of theory and fact. On the one hand were the Constitution and the perpetual pact; on the other were the violated law and the offenders. Men like

*LINCOLN'S PLAN OF RECONSTRUCTION. By Charles H. McCarthy. New York: McClure, Phillips & Co.

Lincoln and Stevens, who agreed thoroughly as to the theory of the Union, fixed their attention, after the event of secession, poles apart. Lincoln's mind was on the indissoluble Union; Stevens saw before all else the violators of the law. Lincoln's desire to restore the *status quo* dwarfed all questions of method; to Stevens the *status quo* was worth restoring only on certain conditions and with certain guarantees for the future. The one thought upon the returned and restored prodigal; the other elaborated pains and penalties. If Mr. Lincoln's was the paternal plan, that of Mr. Stevens was the penitentiary one.

Mr. Lincoln died on the eve of the Reconstruction period, and his successor was soon at war with the leaders of Congressional opinion. It has always been an open question to thoughtful men, how far the great leader, if he had lived, would have determined the facts of Reconstruction. The issue that was made, early in 1864 in the first session of the Thirty-eighth Congress, when Henry Winter Davis and Senator Wade brought in a bill which ignored the administration's policy of restoration in Louisiana, foreboded a conflict; and although it was for the time averted, the desire to punish the rebellious South, and to make sure of the abolition of slavery, was too strong to be permanently set aside. Yet one may reasonably cherish the belief that, had the leader lived who far more than any other man concerned with the rebellion commanded the confidence of his fellow-countrymen, some of the harsher features of Reconstruction as carried out would have been avoided. Whilst it is true that the opposition to Mr. Lincoln was based only partly on his plan, and was directed also at his independence in the initiation of a policy, we can agree with the latest biographer of Thaddeus Stevens, Congressman McCall, that if Lincoln had lived "his fine political sagacity and his popularity with the people might not have been strong enough to carry through his plan of Reconstruction, but we can at least feel sure that his moderation would have averted any serious rupture; that he would not have been dragged to the bar of the Senate in impeachment proceedings, and that Congress, under the lead of Stevens, would not have wielded the supreme power."

Mr. Charles H. McCarthy has very happily gathered into his volume on "Lincoln's Plan of Reconstruction" the lines of policy that lie about the purpose of President Lincoln. In the first four chapters he discusses the admin-

istrative efforts to restore to the Union Tennessee, Louisiana, and Arkansas, and the formation of the new State of West Virginia. Through all these tentative efforts, whether in what was contemptuously called the "ten per cent" policy in the three Southwestern States, or in the recognition in the "Old Dominion" of a minority vote setting free the western portion of the State, Mr. Lincoln was clear in his own mind. What he said in the case of Virginia applies to all:

"The consent of the Legislature of Virginia is constitutionally necessary to the bill for the admission of West Virginia becoming a law. A body claiming to be such a legislature has given its consent. We cannot well deny it is such unless we do so upon the outside knowledge that the body was chosen at elections in which a majority of the qualified voters of Virginia did not participate. But it is a universal practice in the popular elections in all these States to give no legal consideration whatever to those who do not choose to vote, as against the effect of the votes of those who do choose to vote. Hence it is not the qualified voters, but the qualified voters who choose to vote, that constitute the political power of the State. Much less than to non-voters should any consideration be given to those who did not vote in this case, because it is also matter of outside knowledge that they are not merely neglectful of their rights under and duty to this government, but were also engaged in open rebellion against it. . . . Can this Government stand if it indulges constitutional constructions by which men in open rebellion against it are to be accounted, man for man, the equals of those who maintain their loyalty to it?"

The sixth chapter, a most instructive one, "Theories and Plans of Reconstruction," presents the President's plan, Sumner's theory of "State suicide," the "conquered territory" theory of Stevens, and the view persistently held by many Northern Democrats that only the final event of the war could determine whether the rebellious States were in or out of the Union. The President's plan assumed not only that the Union was indestructible, but also that individuals rather than States were in rebellion, and that individuals rather than States were to be brought to terms. Mr. Sumner's theory held that the act of the *de facto* rulers of a State is the act of that State, and that secession involved "a practical abdication by the State of all rights under the Constitution . . . and the State being, according to the language of the law, *felo de se*, ceases to exist."

Mr. Stevens's theory was too much that of a legalist, in some of its features, to be satisfactory to a lover of the Constitution in its spirit as well as its letter.

"Who pleads the Constitution against our proposed action? Who says the Constitution must come in, in

bar of our action. . . . The Constitution! Our Constitution, which you repudiate and trample under foot, forbids it! Sir, it is an absurdity. There must be a party in court to plead it, and that party, to be entitled to plead it in court, must first acknowledge its supremacy, or he has no business to be in court at all. . . . Those who bring in this plea here, in bar of our action, are the advocates of rebels; they are speaking for them and not for us — who are the plaintiffs in this transaction."

The plaintiffs! Never once did the mind of this acute lawyer rise above that narrow conception of the constitutional defence of the Union. To Mr. Lincoln, the cause of the Union was that of a sovereign government and a sovereign people, and not of a mere plaintiff at the bar.

The seventh chapter of Mr. McCarthy's work deals with "The Rise of the Congressional Plan," and gives in detail the discussions in both houses, during the first half of 1864, of the bill introduced by Henry Winter Davis and Senator Wade. This bill, which was vetoed by President Lincoln, repudiated the President's "ten per cent" States and their reconstructed governments, and claimed the right for Congress "to reorganize governments in those States, to impose such conditions as it thinks necessary to secure the permanence of republican government, to refuse to recognize any governments there which do not prohibit slavery forever." Mr. Lincoln thought that slavery could be abolished only by an amendment to the Constitution, and said:

"This bill and the position of these gentlemen seem to me, in asserting that the insurrectionary States are no longer in the Union, to make the fatal admission that States, whenever they please, may of their own motion dissolve their connection with the Union. Now, we cannot survive that admission, I am convinced."

In the Congress that met in December, 1864, an attempt was made to revive the Davis-Wade bill, with the modification of recognizing the "ten per cent" States already organized by the administration. This measure was unsuccessful; and equally so was an attempt by the friends of the administration to have the State of Louisiana recognized independently of a general Reconstruction measure. There was a drawn battle, at the close of which the President's death changed the whole situation. This conflict of forces within the triumphant Republican party is fully presented in the eighth, ninth, and tenth chapters; while the final chapter notes the "Culmination of the Presidential Plan" in the application of it by his successor, and to final discomfiture at the hands of Congress. In this chapter the author

for the first time becomes something more than a narrator, and enters into a critical examination as to the modes of initiating Reconstruction, the character of the reconstructed governments, and the limitations of the Presidential plan. He finds four modes of instituting the renewed governments: by a movement originating with the loyal people, as in West Virginia; by Presidential initiative, as in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana; by the expiring power of the Confederacy's local governors, as in Mississippi, Georgia, and Texas; and by Congressional authority, as finally in all the eleven States except West Virginia and Tennessee. All of these methods are characterized as irregular, but the last is approved as least open to objection. The author's closing remarks may well be quoted:

"However crude we may now consider Mr. Lincoln's system, it should not be forgotten that with him the paramount consideration was the overthrow of the Confederacy. With that purpose all his measures harmonized, and it is scarcely critical to examine them from any other point of view. How far necessity, which had originally suggested, would subsequently have modified his plan, it is now impossible to state. Without detracting a particle from his well-won fame it may be admitted that his method, which could not have foreseen the rapid succession of changes following his death, was but indifferently adapted to solve the problem with which Congress was compelled to deal in 1867; but the measure of permanent success which attended the deliberate legislation of that body by no means justified the conclusion that some other system would have proved a total failure. With all its immaturity, the plan of the President was not without its advantages. It aimed to restore, with as little innovation as possible, the Union of the Fathers; with some exceptions the natural leaders of Southern society were to participate in the work of reorganization; and the author of this simple plan approached his difficult task in a generous and enlightened spirit."

The substance of Mr. McCarthy's book is better than his method. There is at times a lack of continuity, and a returning upon itself of the narrative which makes it difficult to see the relation of events. Especially in the case of the States restored by the President, is it difficult to get the calendar of the story. The narrative in Arkansas proceeds to May, 1861; then falls back, without notice, to February; then goes on in May. Mr. Pierpont is elected Governor of Virginia for a term beginning January 1, 1864, and immediately in his message makes a recommendation which is acted on by the Legislature December 21, 1863. On page 47 Thomas J. Durant is made the leader of the anti-slavery faction in Louisiana; on page 53 he is called the spokesman of "the conservative element whose interests opposed

any disturbance of existing conditions." On page 208 there is an unprofitable attempt to prove that Mr. Sumner was in the wrong in considering that James the Second demitted the English crown by *abdication*. On page 484 we are told that "when the last of the Federal soldiers had set their faces toward the sea, the city of Atlanta was little more than a mass of smoking ruins." In his "Memoirs," General Sherman says that the fire which Colonel Roe, by his orders, had set to the railroad shops, through an explosion "also reached the block of stores near the depot, and the heart of the city was in flames, but the fire did not reach the parts of Atlanta where the courthouse was, or the great mass of dwelling-houses." The annexed correspondence shows that the intention was merely to destroy that portion of the city which was a fortified place and an arsenal of supplies. Old residents tell the same story to those who visit Atlanta to-day.

The author has esteemed too lightly his function as critic. One feels that the opposing plans represented by Lincoln, by Henry Winter Davis, and by Stevens, are not sufficiently characterized; and he gets a less clear view of their constitutional relationships from this work devoted to a single topic than from such a treatise as McCall's *Life of Stevens*, to which Reconstruction is only a part of the story.

JOHN J. HALSEY.

AN AMERICAN TRANSLATION OF DANTE.*

The late Eugene Schuyler rather wickedly remarked concerning Longfellow's translation of Dante: "You cannot possibly understand it unless you have read the original." This jibe is somewhat less injurious than it sounds, for it is in a measure true of all verse translations of Dante, among which Longfellow's is not the least intelligible. What makes verse translations, with a few shining exceptions, so disappointing is the fact that their form naturally arouses an expectation which is sadly disappointed. Except as a vehicle for poetry, what excuse for being has verse? The function of a verse translation should be to give some impression of the artistic form of the original, some touch of its animating principle, to make a similar appeal to the sense of beauty. If a metrical version fails to give such an impres-

sion, to make such an appeal, it is like salt that has lost its savor. From a prose translation of a poem less is expected: it serves its humble purpose if it afford an accurate and spirited rendering of so much of the meaning of the original as may still persist after the disintegration of the poem as a work of art. This residue chances to be, in the case of the *Divine Comedy*, of weight and value; moreover, the difficulties in the way of the modern reader who would feel the full glory and divineness of the poem are so great that a faithful translation is not to be despised. Even the Italians have their prose version, printed face to face with the original, nor do they shame to consult it. Similar apparatus is provided by the editors of the well-known "Temple Classics," who give us the fine prose translations of the *Inferno* by Dr. Carlyle, of the *Purgatorio* by Mr. Okey, of the *Paradiso* by Mr. Wicksteed, in compact and attractive form face to face with the original text. The object of this edition is plainly to facilitate the study of the original. In a note appended to his translation Mr. Okey remarks with truth and point: "Of the supreme poets none loses so much by translation as Dante; none so quickly repays a study of the original text. Many passages indeed are clearer in Italian than in English." This should not be forgotten when Mr. Schuyler's fling at Longfellow is recalled.

The three translations issued in the "Temple Classics" have high and various merits; still, the very fact that they are by different men deprives them of that uniformity of texture and tone that marks the work of Dante. It is pleasant to know that there is a complete translation by an honored American scholar the merits of which are incontestible, perhaps incomparable. When Professor Charles Eliot Norton first published his prose translation of Dante in 1891, its excellence was widely recognized,—so widely that a dozen reprints of at least one part of it were called for within a decade. Last autumn Professor Norton completed a thorough-going revision of his great work, which now comes to us in its definitive form from the Riverside Press. A critical comparison of this with the earlier version is necessary in order to enable one to realize the significance of the author's quiet statement that he has "given, perhaps, as much time to the revision as to the original making of the translation." Indeed, the alterations, both in sense and syntax, are so many and often so radical, that the revision is essentially a new

*THE DIVINE COMEDY OF DANTE ALIGHIERI. Translated by Charles Eliot Norton. Revised edition. In three volumes: Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

version. The changes fall into two classes: those whose purpose was to make the style more flowing and the diction more idiomatic; and those by which the author seeks to render Dante's thought with increased precision and deeper fidelity. It is safe to assert that the translator has taken cognizance of the textual corrections and the happier interpretations of recent decades, and that nothing is here set down at random. Inasmuch, however, as the former version was also deeply considered, it remains true that the changes in the sense are often of a kind to invite the famous verdict of Sir Roger De Coverley. They represent the deliberate interpretations of Professor Norton to-day as opposed to the interpretations of the same authority a dozen years ago. It is but natural that there should be instances in the case of which some will prefer the earlier reading. The very first sentence of the poem affords a case in point. The earlier version was:

"Midway upon the road of our life I found myself within a dark wood, for the right way had been missed."

The following is the revised version, with the changes made noticeable by italics:

"Midway upon the *journey* of our life I found myself in a dark wood, *where* the right way *was* lost."

Far the most important of the above alterations is the change of *for* to *where*. The change represents a fundamentally different conception of Dante's moral and theological attitude. Formerly the translator made Dante say that a man deviates from the straight and narrow way because of an inward declension, a spiritual blindness, which is symbolized by the slumber that possessed him when he "abandoned the true way." Now, on the other hand, the translator makes Dante imply that a man goes astray morally by reason of mere outward temptations and obstacles. Perhaps he is right about Dante's attitude; Scartazzini does not think so; others do not think so; and, however it may be, the change seems to involve some sacrifice of spiritual significance, of universal truth.

Whatever one may think of this or that change in the reading, everyone must admire the literary skill displayed in the changes in diction and word-order. Professor Norton's diction bears witness to a taste more nearly faultless than is exhibited by other translators of Dante. The notes, which in the former version were too scanty, have been increased in number many-fold, and now give a succinct explanation, whenever the explanation is known, of every obscure passage or allusion. Detailed

comparison of this translation with Carlyle's of the *Inferno* or with Mr. Wicksteed's of the *Paradiso* tends to deepen one's admiration of Mr. Norton's work. The American translation is somewhat severer in style than the others, frequently exhibiting a distinct preference for significant Latinisms in Dante's diction for which the English translators prefer the more vivid purely English synonyms. Not that Mr. Norton's translation is unduly Latinized: on the contrary, it is extremely idiomatic, and more so in the present than in the former version. Mr. Norton further shows the purity of his taste in eschewing archaisms, except perhaps when the language of Dante is distinctly scriptural; and in the avoidance of metrical effects. In Mr. Wicksteed's charming and spirited version of the *Paradiso* the light-winged prose is continually hovering on the verge of verse — sometimes sliding into it. It may be questioned whether there is not some element of the meretricious in such a confusion of the two harmonies of prose and of verse. The superiority of Mr. Norton's taste is decisively revealed in the uniformity of tone which is preserved throughout: the tone and the harmony of noble modern prose. It is unfortunate that there is no space here for examples which would give point to these observations. The reviewer can only record his own conclusion that no other version of the whole poem known to him, and no other combination of versions of the three several parts, can be said to equal Mr. Norton's in the application of the higher qualities of taste and style to the faithful rendition of Dante's thought in prose. In its union of the prime qualities of fidelity and idiomatic felicity, this masterly translation is probably unrivalled. No doubt it will have a permanent place as an English classic.

MELVILLE B. ANDERSON.

AN EXPLANATION OF ROBESPIERRE.*

In the examination of a biographical work on so important a historical character as Robespierre, three questions at once present themselves: Have new sources or material been discovered? Have the old and well-known sources been correctly used? Is there merit shown in analysis and in literary presentation? In the present volume the first of these may be dismissed at once, for Mr. Belloc prefaces

* ROBESPIERRE. A Study. By Hilaire Belloc, B.A. With portrait. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

his work with a disclaimer. It is his belief that there is greater need of intelligent study of materials already within reach than of search for altogether new light. In recognition of this need he has undertaken the present study. The result of his labor is a volume that bears on its every page evidence of that conscientious care and analysis which were, in the writer's mind, the first essentials.

Now when a man of Mr. Belloc's known ability and honesty of purpose essays such an important examination as this one, and when its perusal shows such extreme care, there is surely reason for the prediction that, in so far as the facts of history are concerned, a just discrimination in the use of materials may be expected. It is only in part, however, that such a prediction is verified. It would perhaps be hypercritical to attack the author's old-time presentation of the Revolution as a sudden emergence and as a series of cataclysms,—as when, writing of the results of the National Assembly, it is stated that "it was in the nature of this crisis that the immediate past fell out of sight altogether. There stood between '89 and '90 the strange barrier between sleep and waking." Such misstatements may be pardoned in the exigencies of dramatic analysis. But it is otherwise when materials are avowedly accepted as authoritative which lack the first requisites of true sources. Mr. Belloc's account of Robespierre's youth and early manhood is founded upon the memoirs of Charlotte Robespierre. He not only accepts them as genuine, but, basing an analysis of character upon the sister's description, he makes that analysis the centre and *cruz* of the later development of his hero. The trustworthiness of these memoirs is then a question of prime importance, yet they have usually been regarded as a forgery. The author asserts their authenticity, and has made a clever argument in support of his contention. Yet, admitting this argument to be convincing and final, the memoirs do not constitute a reliable source. It is at least clear that they were written years after the events they purport to narrate, that they were amplified by Laperronaye in such a manner as to render it impossible to distinguish between original and alterations, and that, at the best, they constitute a solitary, isolated statement of facts unsupported by other witnesses. To accept such material as a final source is to discredit that modern school of scientific history to which Mr. Belloc's countrymen have contributed so largely.

Along the same lines is the author's assumption of Robespierre's unimportance in the summer of 1789, because "for months the half official *Moniteur* does not mention his name." This mistake has become almost a classic. The *Moniteur* in fact did not begin publication until November of 1789, and it was not until years had elapsed that the earlier numbers, dating from May, were published in order to make the file complete for so interesting a period of history. Necessarily, citations from the *Moniteur* for this period have no true historical value. In minor matters there are occasional errors in the statement of events of importance. The Berlin treaty of February, 1792, between Austria and Prussia, was certainly not due primarily to the intrigues of Catherine II. of Russia, but was rather the completion of a diplomatic reversal begun in the Vienna Convention of the previous year, by which Leopold II. gained a friend in the king of Prussia. Both Van Sybel and Sorel have proved this beyond question. Nor is that view correct which shows the Girondists in July of 1792 as imbued with a great idea, "the vision of a free world." The famous decree offering aid to "nations in bondage" was not passed until November of that year, and then only by accident, and with no conception of its real import.

When, however, we turn to the question of analysis and literary presentation, Mr. Belloc's work at once takes rank with the best historical essays. Granting him his premises, his characterizations of Robespierre and of contemporary events are altogether logical, and are presented in a style that forces an absorbed attention. Robespierre, as the author sees him, belonged to that class of country lawyers who, imbued with the spirit of anti-revolutionary philosophy, systematized that philosophy into a code of principles, and, with a hard logic, judged all men and events by its formulas.

"He took the first postulates of the 'Contrat Social' for granted. . . . He deduced from them, and still deduced, with a fatal accuracy of process, with a fatal ignorance of things, and with no appreciation of the increasing chances of error, until his deductions had departed prodigiously from their starting point, and began to prove themselves in every practical application absurd."

Thus the atmosphere in which Robespierre lived was one of political dogmatism. He was one of those fanatics who

"Attach themselves to some principle which is either highly probable, or generally acceptable, or even self-evident, and armed with this truth which few care (and sometimes none are able) to deny, they proceed to a

thousand applications of their rule which they lay down as an iron standard, crushing the multiple irregularities of living things. Of these it has been well said that they go to the devil by logic."

Imbued with these circumscribed ideals, Robespierre entered the National Assembly of 1789. He was "unreasonable logic incarnate," yet his reputation grew steadily by his pertinacity in criticism of existing forms, and his insistent postulation of new principles of government. At the same time he took no part in the immediate quarrels of the Assembly, nor in its practical labors. He "lived in ideas rather than in their application," and was in truth incapable of sharing in the popular excitement and enthusiasm of 1789. This aloofness of temperament, combined with a recognized sincerity, both constantly displayed in the Assembly and at the Jacobin Club, served in time to give him a far-reaching influence. In popular estimation he personified those principles which the radical revolutionists were struggling to realize. But with the events of the 10th of August, the people, whose rights Robespierre had been preaching, actually acquired power, and a change of rôle was imperative. Obligated to abandon obstructive criticism, his true forte, he entered upon a period of constructive activity, in which he forfeited both the source of his popularity and his political independence. Though not the coward he has frequently been pictured, he was never a leader in action, nor strong in times of crisis. He unconsciously undermined his own influence by yielding principles to political necessity or to personal ambition. In the trial of the King, his logic became sophistry; in the attack upon the Girondists he exhibited none but the politician's tactics. Yet with the overthrow of the Girondists the time finally arrived when Robespierre's ideals were to be put in execution, when his essays were to become codes.

This interpretation of Robespierre by Mr. Belloc, as just summarized, does not differ greatly from that commonly given. It is with the period following Robespierre's entrance into the Committee of Public Safety that the biography diverges from the beaten track. He joined the Committee, says Mr. Belloc, not reluctantly, but of set purpose. He passed from the realm of abstract theory to that of practical politics. More and more he sacrificed principles to the gratification of personal ambition, and he knew himself to have deserted his ideals. Opposed in theory to the system of the Terror, he yet submitted to it to retain his

leadership in Paris, while his occasional resistance to that system is explained as the result of a desire to exhibit his authority. Finally he was tempted, — tempted by the vision of despotic authority, only transparently masked by a pretense of moderating the Terror; and he knew his temptation, yet yielded. Such an analysis denies to Robespierre the excuse of self-deception: an extreme view, yet one ably argued. It seems reasonable also to the reader, and thus is evidence of the skill with which the author has combined his materials. It cannot be accepted as conclusive, simply because no dictum on Robespierre is conclusive. As Mr. Belloc himself states, "in every attempt to explain the man, one must omit the background." In a greater degree than with any other man of the revolutionary era, contemporary events fail to illuminate his character. The study of Robespierre is the study of "a mind isolated and feeding inwardly upon itself."

In his preface Mr. Belloc writes:

"Nothing would be easier than to make a drama of the life of Robespierre, were one content to neglect the exactitude of historical record. On the other hand, nothing would be easier . . . than to write down a voluminous chronicle in which the self contradictions should be stated, but not explained, and in which all the sequence of the great story and all its poignancy should be neglected."

Having denied himself the "easier task," Mr. Belloc undertook to steer the much more difficult middle course, and explain the man. To do this successfully and present to the public a study which altogether escapes the imputation of the dry-as-dust accounts on the one hand, and also of the luridly painted theatrical effects on the other, has been Mr. Belloc's work. And it is no small praise to say that his explanation of Robespierre, while not forfeiting its claim to an honorable place among historical studies, has also much of the charm and style and finish which should win recognition for it in a wider field.

E. D. ADAMS.

AMERICA IN THE FAR EAST.*

Passing over the matter of racial bias, and of the insuperable British belief in the right of Anglo-Saxon nations to subjugate and dominate weaker peoples, it may be said that few students of contemporary diplomacy are better qualified to speak of the events that are so rapidly transforming the Orient and opening for us a new chapter in the history of the

*THE MASTERY OF THE PACIFIC. By Archibald R. Colquhoun. New York: The Macmillan Company.

world than Mr. Archibald R. Colquhoun, author of "The Mastery of the Pacific." Long a resident and traveller in foreign lands, he has enjoyed rare opportunities for observing the peoples of the Far East and noting such social and political institutions as are calculated to throw light on their racial traits as well as on their capacity for self-government. Former deputy commissioner of Burma and administrator of Mashonaland, he was for several years a special correspondent of the London "Times" in the Orient, — positions that gave him access to sources of information seldom exploited by Europeans. Notwithstanding the fact that he has already published some of these impressions in former volumes which have not only aroused wide interest but won for him special recognition from the Royal Geographical Society, the present book is in every sense a new and original production. Its dominant idea appears to be that the Pacific is to become the highway for the commerce of the world, and hence the arena for the international rivalries of the dawning century. Mr. Colquhoun's style is at once clear and graphic, while his description of Asiatic conditions and possibilities is both thorough and comprehensive. The numerous sketches and photographs, which add so much to the interest and value of the book, were made by Mrs. Colquhoun, the constant companion of her husband throughout his journeys. There are also several good maps and a copious index.

The introductory pages of the volume are devoted to the history of the Pacific and of the various races that have made their homes along its coasts and in its countless islands; while succeeding chapters give a more or less comprehensive account of the three chief colonial interests in the Orient, — namely, those of the United States, Great Britain, and Holland, — and of the empire of Japan, with its colony of Formosa. Then follows a glance at the interests of other Powers in Asiatic waters, — the first place being assigned to Germany and France, not only on account of their insular possessions, but also by reason of their even more extensive interests on the mainland. Finally comes a rough survey of the possessions of China and Russia; and the book concludes with a brief presentation of Mr. Colquhoun's views regarding the probable trend of future events in the Far East. Convinced that the struggle for supremacy must inevitably be settled by force, and therefore fought out by Russia and Japan because of their proximity to bases of supplies,

he is disposed to believe that the impending conflict, though perhaps a bloodless one, is to be shifted to an ocean sphere. Hence the Mastery of the Pacific is to be decided by the Great Sea Powers.

American readers will naturally turn with keenest interest to those pages of Mr. Colquhoun's work which set forth our own interests in the Pacific. Thoroughly familiar with the political situation both in this country and in the Philippines, he balances the varying forces that are thrusting us further and further into the vortex of international passions, and draws conclusions that ought to receive the careful attention of our statesmen as well as of all citizens who can rise above party and creed. To many readers Mr. Colquhoun's remarks concerning the religion of the Filipino will come in the nature of a revelation. "His Christianity," the author declares, "is a thing about which his best friends disagree. Some say it is deep and sincere, others that it is a mere matter of outward show and superstition. One of themselves makes the distinction that it is not so much religious as fanatical." While convinced that we are only on the threshold, so to speak, of the difficulties that await us in the Far East, Mr. Colquhoun thinks that, in spite of many mistakes, we have already accomplished a great deal. And, like most other Englishmen who so complacently view our unjoyous outing in the Pacific, he extols the salubrity of the atmosphere, the picturesqueness of the scenery, and counsels us to keep up our present diet and exercise. Should we cease finding game in the Philippines, there is always the prospect of a bear-hunt in India. He deplores the employment of colored troops in subjugating the native population, urges the adoption of an efficient plan of civil service, and expresses the hope that our government will not be hostile either to the institutions of the islanders or to the capital of Europeans. Mr. Colquhoun observes that what is now wanted is, "not further statements as to the actual number of pagans in certain districts, or the percentage of immorality among the Friars, but experience and judgment in dealing with matters as they stand at present. All the information which can be had by cross-examining untruthful witnesses has been already collected, and the bones of the discussion are picked bare." In other words, America must make up her mind as to her future relations to the Archipelago and then "put her faith in the men who have already devoted so much of their

time to the problem." To send another commission would, in his opinion, merely result in increasing the number of smatterers. Judge Taft he regards as being thoroughly capable of facing the situation, provided he is supported at home. Mr. Colquhoun believes that our ideal policy in the Philippines would have been a temporary military occupation followed by a gradually-developed civil administration; but since, out of deference to public opinion in the United States, a system of quasi-independence has been inaugurated, he throws out the characteristic suggestion that our government ought to "interfere as little as possible with the customs, prejudices, and religion of the Filipinos, and to keep a tight hold."

Of the various rival powers in the Far East, the United States, according to Mr. Colquhoun, will be the dominant factor in the Mastery of the Pacific; and this opinion is based in large measure on our vast resources and fast-increasing population. But he points out very forcibly, in his concluding paragraphs, that in thus embarking on this new phase of her career our country must be prepared to make certain sacrifices as well as to remodel not a few of her time-honored institutions. In other words, "there can be no rest, no pause, in the march of a great empire; it must advance or decay, — history has made that plain."

B. J. RAMAGE.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

Completion of a great cyclopedia.

The completion of Mr. L. H. Bailey's great "Cyclopedia of American Horticulture" (Macmillan) deserves special notice. At first the work was planned to be a three-volume cyclopedia, but before the first volume was half written it was found that four volumes would be necessary. As Professor Bailey says, "the article *Asparagus* is the first that began to feel the fuller and larger treatment." The editor expresses the hope that this cyclopedia will never be revised, since its purpose is to make a record of North American horticulture as it exists at the opening of the twentieth century. It is expected that subsequent progress will be recorded in a series of supplements, with cumulative index, the manuscript for the first two of which is already prepared. This work has already been somewhat fully reviewed in THE DIAL, but its important features as a whole, that serve to distinguish it from other works of the same class, may be re-stated briefly: It represents a living horticulture, rather than a compilation of species that chance to have been described or pictured in other cyclopedias or in peri-

odical publications. In it are found only those species known to be actually in cultivation in this country at the time of publication. The second feature is that the species are compared and contrasted as well as described. No cyclopedia has such keys to enable the reader to name the species he has in hand. A third feature is that the leading articles are all signed. One can tell the source of information; and while the great number of contributors, reaching more than 450, has resulted in a somewhat heterogeneous work, there is a personality in the articles, representing as they do a wide range of experience and attainment, that is far more satisfactory than the cut-and-trimmed style of the ordinary cyclopedia. The fourth feature of the book is that it is primarily a cyclopedia of horticulture rather than of gardening; and one more worthy of mention is that plants are presented as living and growing things that are still undergoing evolution. This has introduced the historical method of treatment; and although the subject is a vast one for detailed presentation, the intelligent reader feels the drift of an evolutionary motive. Aside from these general features, an entirely new set of excellent horticultural pictures, the biographies of persons who have had an important influence upon American horticulture, the geographical and historical subjects, the special attention given to tropical and sub-tropical plants, the unusual number of citations to literature, are all worthy of commendation. Some of the interesting statistics of the work may be mentioned. There are 4357 entries or articles, including cross-references; the number of genera described is 2225; the number of species fully described is 8793, of which 2419 are native to North America north of Mexico. Writing on the cyclopedia was begun in January, 1899, a year having then been spent in making indexes and collecting data. The proof of the letter Z was received December 31, 1901. In dismissing the work, the editor, in a very characteristic vein, writes as follows: "Hundreds of books had become familiar friends. We would never see them all together again. Like a child, the cyclopedia had grown. Like the mature youth, it had left us. It was no longer ours."

Theories of the notation of English verse.

Mr. J. P. Dabney is the latest of theorists regarding the notation of English verse, and, like his predecessors, he believes he has solved the multifarious problem it presents in "The Musical Basis of Verse, a Scientific Study of the Principles of Poetic Composition" (Longmans). All English poetry, the book observes, follows in detail the laws of musical composition, and may be noted musically in either two-four or three-four time. Being purely a question of stressed syllables regularly recurring, with either one or two unstressed syllables intervening, the division can be made with exactitude, all of the measures variously known as iambic, trochaic, or spondaic falling into the two-four bar,

and those either dactylic, amphibrachic, or anapaestic into the three-four. The author further reduces all forms of English metre to three classes or manners: (1), "Strict," in which all the lines begin uniformly with the anacrusis, which will include iambs, anapests, and amphibrachs; (2), those "with direct attack," without the anacrusis, comprising dactyls and trochees; and (3), "Free," in which the poet uses lines with or without the anacrusis. As in the case of his predecessors in this field, Mr. Dabney finds it necessary to accuse poets of eminence of lack of ear for writing verses which do not fall within his scheme. — Wordsworth and Emerson among others. The question of extra syllables is met by putting in extra notes — not grace notes, either — as in the case of Milton's "Wallowing unwieldy, enormous in their gait," where the first bar has four notes and the second three. It is Sidney Lanier's method carried to its logical conclusion; but it does not bring conviction in its train. There is a law, exceedingly complex in its statement, which governs English heroic verse. It implies not merely stresses in due place, but stresses out of place, the use of long syllables to produce such effects, the various placings of the caesura, and the use of rhetorical pauses for this purpose. It also implies elisions, the uses of phrases as long words, and all the delicate shades of stress which long words and phrases so used necessitate. Its infinite varieties cannot be stated in terms of the metronome, as Mr. Dabney insists; and he leaves the problem quite as complicated as he finds it. To the classicist, indeed, his book will seem like the reduction of Lanier's work to an absurdity.

Short lives of two leading Americans.

The two latest issues of that excellent group of brief lives of men who have played a large part in American history, called the "Riverside Biographical Series" (Houghton), are of value and interest, since they are not only good pieces of work, but treat of men whose lives are among ordinary readers largely a matter of tradition. Mr. William Garrott Brown has given the life-story of Stephen Arnold Douglas with a completeness that seems remarkable until one remembers the meteoric brevity of that astonishing career and the overshadowing importance of the one great question that roused the passion and filled the attention of the country during the decade before the Civil War. Few parallels can be found to the astonishing rise to prominence of this man whose body was so small but whose ambition was so colossal. There was no situation that he did not dominate at once, whether in frontier Illinois or at the capital of the nation, until he found himself confronted by the aroused moral sense of the North. Then his essential weakness was manifested. Wholly unlike Lincoln, his beaten rival all through life up to this time, he lacked in moral sensibility. He could not measure this new force, because he could not understand it. So he failed of the presidency, the

goal of his ambition; and when he died, at forty-eight, he had been pushed to one side by his less brilliant but far greater rival. The volume will appeal most to those who are already familiar with the history of Douglas's time. — The other volume is a life of Samuel de Champlain, by Mr. Henry D. Sedgwick, Jr. Here, too, one purpose dominated the life of the subject, so that, although the life's activity extended over nearly half a century, it can be adequately presented in a small compass. The author has shown his hero as a statesman and a prudent leader of men, as well as a daring explorer. His final word is this: "Champlain was very noble in public and private life, simple, just, honorable, and kind, with a tenderness toward the weak, and a steadfast, patient loyalty in trouble, that with his 'insuppressible mettle' make him one of the worthiest, if not the worthiest, man in the early history of North America."

Medieval ivory carvings.

The second volume in the series of "Handbooks of Great Craftsmen" (Macmillan) is curiously misnamed "The Ivory Workers of the Middle Ages," and is certainly misplaced in a series of books having to do with the great craftsmen. The human interest is conspicuously lacking. The author, Mr. A. M. Cust, manages to avoid giving any information whatever regarding ivory workers. Tuotilo, the monk of St. Gall, and a reputed hero of the craft (circa 900 A.D.), is mentioned only for the purpose of denying that he was an eminent craftsman in ivory. If it be true, as other monographs upon ivory carving state, that Albrecht Durer, Michel Angelo, Benvenuto Cellini, and many other artists and many European princes of the Middle Ages, followed the "beautiful craft," and furnished specimens of their workmanship in ivory to enrich the museums of the art capitals of Europe, no mention thereof is made in this book. Some information it gives regarding the art of ivory carving in its relation to sculpture, and it seeks to show the continuity of this art from the time of the Cave Dwellers down through the various periods into which the history of art is divided, and that it prospered at times when the sculptor's art declined and when monumental sculpture was almost completely suspended. All this is interesting; but the photographic reproductions by which the book is illustrated do not exhibit the anonymous mediæval carvers as accurate interpreters of the human form, nor their skill as superior to that of the modern ivory workers. Nor are the pictures calculated to inspire the readers of the book with a very deep interest in the art of ivory carving.

Biblical and Semitic studies from Yale.

A recent volume of the "Yale Bicentennial Publications" (Scribner) is taken up with a collection of "Biblical and Semitic Studies" prepared by seven members of the biblical and Semitic faculty of Yale University. The essays deal with a wide range of

topics, touching the Old and New Testaments, Rabbinical lore, and Semitic history. They are up-to-date discussions, and reflect the spirit of investigation that properly has its abode in such an institution as Yale. The first article, by Professor E. L. Curtis, is a study of the tribes of Israel, in the light of the latest hypotheses put forth by a number of Old Testament scholars, especially in Europe. The impression produced on the reader by a careful perusal of this article is that we are in danger of falling into a habit of employing fanciful and arbitrary methods in the interpretation of ancient oriental literature. There is no limit to the possibilities of such imaginary explanations as he gives of the personages of the Old Testament. The growth of Israelitish law is the theme of the second article. As in much of the current discussions of that subject, the authors, Professors Kent and Sanders, present an argument for the chief growth of the law late in Hebrew history—in post-exilic times. To a layman in the subject, their method of presentation is orderly, consecutive, logical, but rather too much wedded to a theory that underlies the whole scheme to carry conviction. Professor F. C. Porter contributes the third article on "Yetzer Hara," "the evil inclination," or "imagination" in the Old Testament, rabbinical literature, etc. This is a valuable addition to our knowledge of this important Hebrew term. "The Significance of the Resurrection," by Professor Moulton, "Stephen's Speech," by Professor Bacon, and "The Mohammedan Conquest of Egypt and North Africa (643-705 A. D.)," by Professor Torrey, are the concluding scholarly contributions to this valuable bicentennial volume of Yale University.

*Interesting
musical essays.*

A few appreciative sketches on musical subjects, written by Mr. Filson Young, have been published under the title of "Mastersingers" (imported by Charles Scribner's Sons). While there has been no effort to deliver a critical judgment upon the music and musicians written about, the author has penned a truthful record of the effect that certain works, differing widely one from the other, produce on a single mind. In three successive chapters we are given a critical analysis of "Bach's Organ Fugues," "Mozart's Requiem," and "Tchaikowsky's Sixth Symphony." To those who are familiar with these works, and yet have but a slight knowledge of the meaning of all the leading motives that are interwoven into textures of inexpressible beauty, the author's treatment of the subjects has a pictorial suggestiveness that enables one to dispense with a thorough understanding of the actual music. Students of music will appreciate the manner in which certain musical ideas have been revealed,—for the fruitless search after a single pregnant and striking musical idea in a forest of contrapuntal solfeggios and roudades is certainly not a pleasurable exercise of mental ingenuity. Another interesting chapter in the book is devoted to Charles Villiers Stanford.

*"Old Put" as a
man of energy.*

No man better deserves a place among "American Men of Energy" than does General Israel Putnam, a life of whom by William Farrand Livingston has been added by the Messrs. Putnam to the brief series of biographies bearing that name. The energy of "Old Put" needed not to be brought to mind, for too many legends concerning the old hero are still afloat. But the volume is needed to correct what may be a current misapprehension, too likely to arise in such cases, that there was not behind the marvellous energy and daring the more solid qualities of ability and character. While the facts given are out of historical perspective, as in most biographies, and General Putnam's part is made almost the central one in the war, after all allowances are made one cannot but conclude that he was really an able general and a broad-minded statesman in his political views. That Washington made him his right-hand man during the early years of the Revolution, would almost settle the matter. The earlier part of the story, recounting the services of the hero as scout and officer in the French and Indian War, is a constant succession of venturesome and almost foolhardy deeds; but the reader feels throughout that there are shrewdness and good sense behind the daring exploits.

*Men and events
in 18th-century
Ireland.*

"The Irish question," as Lord Rosebery once happily remarked, "has never passed into history because it has never passed out of politics." Mr. C. Litton Falkiner quotes this observation in the preface to his "Studies in Irish History and Biography" (Longmans), and adds that he cannot hope to escape criticism from the point of view of Irish politics. His chapters are devoted mainly to eighteenth-century characters, and he has aimed to exhaust all available sources of information. Most of these studies have already seen the light in the "Edinburgh," the "Quarterly," and other reviews and magazines, and one is expanded from a short article contributed to the "Dictionary of National Biography." Grattan, Clive, Castlereagh, Plunket, Thomas Steele, Sir Boyle Roche, and the Earl-Bishop of Derry claim each a chapter, while the last third of the volume is devoted to an account of the French invasion of Ireland. The reputed father of the Irish bull is, of course, the most diverting character in the book, and one regrets that more space could not have been allowed him. Scholarly treatment and fairness of tone make this collection of Irish studies by an Irishman a work of more than passing interest.

*The love-letters
of Napoleon.*

"Napoleon's Letters to Josephine, 1796-1813" (Dutton), translated and edited by Mr. H. F. Hall, serve, with the aid of copious notes, wide margins, and thick paper, to make up a presentable volume. The letters for the period of the first Italian campaign depict the impassioned lover, and are of interest

in illustrating Napoleon's romantic temperament in early manhood. Those of 1806-7, at the time of the war with Prussia and Russia, indicate a thoughtful interest in keeping Josephine informed of the progress of the campaign, but are brief and hurried. In all save the first period, any one of these so-called letters might easily be reproduced upon a modern postal card, and few have any inherent personal interest. They are largely mere abbreviated records of events, accompanying a perennial injunction to Josephine to be "contented and happy." Mr. Hall has fulfilled the duties of an editor very acceptably, placing before each letter a statement of the leading contemporary events, while his arrangement is logical, and his translation happy. This presentation enhances such interest as the letters may possess.

BRIEFER MENTION.

The first four issues of "The Unit Library" have reached our table. This library is to consist of reprints of standard literature, published at a low price, which is reckoned upon the basis of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for every "unit" of twenty-five pages. Another penny is added for a paper cover, and something more for cloth and leather bindings. The books now published are "The Vicar of Wakefield" (9 units), "A Sentimental Journey" (6 units), "The Origin of Species" (20 units), and Emerson's "English Traits" (8 units). The editions are unabridged. This enterprise bids fair to do for English readers what has been done so successfully in the case of German readers by the "Universal-Bibliothek" of Phillip Reclam, from which the idea has evidently been borrowed.

We have received from the Atlanta University Press an interesting discussion of "The Negro Common School," being a report of a social study made under the direction of the University, and now edited by Dr. W. E. Burghardt Du Bois. These studies of the negro problem which are being made with so much intelligence by Atlanta University are of great sociological and educational value, and deserve to be widely examined. Perhaps the most striking showing made by the present pamphlet is that for the last thirty years the negroes of the former slave states have paid for their own schools (contrary to the usual idea), and that the negroes of the whole country have contributed during the past generation no less than forty millions of dollars for the education of their children.

An extra number of the "Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science" is made up of tributes to the late Herbert B. Adams. The chief contributions are by Messrs. J. M. Vincent, Richard T. Ely, Daniel C. Gilman, and Burr J. Ramage. The greater part of the volume is devoted to a bibliography of the work done by men connected with the department of History, Politics, and Economics during its first quarter-century. The showing made is truly imposing, and helps us to understand what the Johns Hopkins influence has done for American scholarship. It has been a fertilizing and fructifying influence throughout the whole country, and has amply justified the far-sighted wisdom of its late President.

NOTES.

"Samuel I. II.," edited by Mr. James Sime, and "Deuteronomy," edited by Mr. G. Wilkins, are two volumes of the "Temple Bible," published by the J. B. Lippincott Co.

"Julius Cæsar," with an introduction and notes by Mr. Michael Macmillan, is the latest volume of the library edition of Shakespeare now in course of publication by the Bowen-Merrill Co.

Two volumes of "Guy Fawkes," two of "Old St. Paul's," and one of "Star Chamber," are additions to the new "Windsor" edition of W. H. Ainsworth's novels, published by the J. B. Lippincott Co.

"Four American Explorers," by Miss Nellie F. Kingsley, is a new volume in a series of educational reading-books published by the Werner School Book Co. Lewis, Clark, Frémont, and Kane are the four men whose exploits are chronicled in simple and interesting language.

"The International Student's Atlas," prepared under the direction of Mr. J. G. Bartholomew, is imported by the Messrs. Scribner. It includes nearly a hundred pages of plates, and a comprehensive general index. It may be recommended as a strictly modern work at a moderate price.

A translation of Alexander Glovatski's novel of ancient Egypt, "The Pharaoh and the Priest," has been made by Mr. Jeremiah Curtin, and will be issued at an early date by Messrs. Little, Brown, & Co. The same firm will also publish next month a new novel by Miss Mary Devereux, entitled "Laftte of Louisiana."

Mr. Clarence S. Darrow's collection of pleasant literary papers, "A Persian Pearl, and Other Essays," first published in 1899, now reappears in a new edition bearing the imprint of Mr. C. L. Ricketts, Chicago. In mechanical form the volume is a great improvement over the original Roycroft edition, and is altogether a good example of artistic but inexpensive bookmaking.

"Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines" is one of the frothiest of Mr. Clyde Fitch's frothy dramatic efforts. Its present publication in book form, with illustrations (including a portrait of Miss Ethel Barrymore), will doubtless be welcome to those who have seen the play and wish for a permanent souvenir of their hour of amusement. The book comes from Messrs. Doubleday, Page & Co.

"Grieb's German Dictionary" has long been a standard work, and we welcome the publication of the new edition (the tenth), re-arranged, revised, and enlarged under the editorship of Dr. Arnold Schröder of Freiburg i. B. The English-German section is the only one now published, and makes a volume of 1358 pages. The Oxford University Press (Mr. Henry Frowde) supplies the English and American market with this work.

The University of Chicago Press send us an acting edition of Ben Jonson's "The Case is Altered," which is to be produced by students of the University on the seventeenth of this month. As the first production in Chicago of an Elizabethan play under Elizabethan conditions, the occasion promises to be of much interest. At the same time, we receive from Messrs. Paul Elder & Morgan Shepard, San Francisco, a translation of the "Antigone" of Sophocles, prepared in connection with the recent performance of the play (in Greek) under the Stanford auspices. This translation follows Professor Jebb's text in most matters, and is the work of Professors H. R. Fairclough and A. T. Murray.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

[The following list, containing 78 titles, includes books received by THE DIAL since its last issue.]

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS.

- Autobiography of Sir Walter Besant. With a Prefatory Note by S. Squire Sprigge. With portrait, 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 294. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$2.40 net.
- William Black, Novelist: A Biography. By Wemyss Reid. With portrait, 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 353. Harper & Brothers. \$2.25 net.
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